A.—(a) & (d) The contract was given in 1911 and continued till October 1923.

(b) & (c) The appended statement gives the required information.[a]

(e) & (f) The question of inviting fresh tenders is under consideration.

Nominations to Salem Municipal Council.

*103 Q.—Mr. R. VEERIAN: Will the hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that five Brahman gentlemen were duly elected by the rate-payers of the Salem Municipal Council to that council during last November;

(b) whether it is a fact that one more Brahman gentleman was appointed by the Government to the Salem Municipal Council;

(c) whether it is a fact that there was a member nominated by the Government belonging to the Odda or Boyan community to the council and he was not re-nominated; and

(d) if the Government have no information with reference to clauses (a), (b) and (c), whether they will be pleased to call for the information?

A.—(a) The attention of the hon. Member is invited to the latest Annual Civil List.

(b) & (c) The answer is in the affirmative.

Mr. R. VEERIAN:—"Sir, with reference to clause (b) of the question, with due regard to all communities, I wish to know the reason or the necessity for appointing a Brahman gentleman to the Salem Municipal Council, since I see from the Annual Civil List for 1925 that already there were five elected members belonging to the Brahman community?"

11-30 a.m.

The hon. the RAJA OF PANAGAL:—"The authority to make the recommendation has recommended the nomination of a Brahman."

Mr. SAMI VENKATACHALAM CHETTI:—"Should not the hon. the Minister exercise his own judgment in the matter whatever the authority's recommendation may be?"

The hon. the RAJA OF PANAGAL:—"The very fact that he has been recommended by the authority concerned is a presumption in favour of his nomination."

Sriman SASIBHUSHAN RATH Mahasayo:—"Was the fact that five Brahmans were there already made known to the Minister?"

The hon. the RAJA OF PANAGAL:—"I am not quite sure whether at the time I was conscious of there being five Brahman members already."

Mr. A. RAMASWAMI MUDALIYAR:—"Has the authority recommending this particular nomination brought to the notice of the Government the fact that there were already five gentlemen of that community in the council and has he put forward any extraordinary reasons for making this extraordinary recommendation?"

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[a] Printed as Appendix IV on page 258 infra.

18th August 1925]

Public Service.

Distinction in pay between clerks who graduate on first appointment and those who do so subsequent to it.

* 29 Q.—Rao Sahib P. V. GOPALAN: Will the hon. the Member for Finance be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that the Government have recently ordered that the grant of graduate allowance contemplated in G.O. No. 1025, Finance, dated 21st January 1922, applies only to clerks who graduate on first appointment;

(b) if so, the circumstances that necessitated the issue of such an order;

(c) why the Government wish to make a distinction between clerks who graduate on first appointment and those who do so subsequent to it; and

(d) whether such clerks will have to refund the allowance already drawn?

A.—(a), (b) & (c) The object of the discretion allowed by G.O. No. 1025, dated 14th October 1921, to heads of departments to give a higher initial pay to graduates appointed to clerical posts is clearly stated in G.O. No. 74, Finance, dated 21st January 1922, namely, to attract where necessary a better class of candidates. It therefore applies solely to those who are graduates when they first enter service, and is restricted to cases where their recruitment is considered necessary.

(d) Any cases where a refund has been demanded as a result of a wrong application of the rule will be considered on their merits.

Telephones.

The use of telephones by the Government.

* 30 Q.—Mr. T. ADINARAYANA CHETTIYAR: Will the hon. the Member for Finance be pleased to state—

(a) how many telephones are being subscribed for by Government;

(b) what is the total cost of these telephone connexions to Government per year;

(c) whether the Government enjoy any special rate and if so what is the rate; and

(d) whether the Government have made any grants, leases or special facilities to the Madras Telephone Company?

A.—(a) This Government have subscribed for about 400 telephones (220 connexions direct with the Madras Telephone Company's Exchange and 180 extensions from some of the direct connexions).

(b) The total cost of the connexions is roughly Rs. 55,000 per year.

(c) The Government are allowed a reduction of 25 per cent on the rates charged to private subscribers.

(d) The Government have assigned an extent of 21,000 square feet of land in R.S. No. 11378, Esplanade, Georgetown, subject to payment of the approximate market value and ground-rent.